

Div Com Jammu reviews Forest Lands demarcation, sets 2 months' deadline

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 09

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the progress on demarcation of forest lands in Jammu Division and discuss the issues related to demarcation exercise.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Senthil Kumar; Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division; Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers. Officers stationed outside Jammu attended the meeting through virtual mode.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Senthil Kumar, briefed the meeting on the status of forest lands demarcation and highlighted issues related to old and incomplete records, maps, boundary descriptions and Tatima in certain forest areas.

He informed that out of 1,555 forest areas in Jammu Division, around 215 have been identified as difficult forests requiring joint surveys with the Revenue Department. He further informed that around 24,000 boundary pillars are required to be installed in these forests, while nearly 25,000 boundary pillars have already been installed in the last three months.

Reviewing the progress, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Revenue and Forest authorities to undertake joint demarcation of the forest lands on priority and ensure proper installation of boundary pillars after demarcation. He directed that the exercise be carried out through coordinated field teams and be properly recorded by the concerned departments.

Ramesh Kumar further directed the concerned officers to finalize a district-wise schedule within one week in consultation with all DFOs and concerned Revenue officers.

The schedule shall clearly indicate the areas to be covered, field teams, responsible officers, Range Officers and dates for the field exercise. He also fixed a two-month timeline for completion of the demarcation exercise and directed all Deputy Commissioners and



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DFOs to ensure strict adherence to the schedule and the timelines thereof.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed that the composition of field teams be decided at the local level according to the sensitivity and complexity of the area. While routine cases may be handled by suitable Revenue officials, including Naib Tehsildars; Tehsildar-level officers may be associated in sensitive or complex cases requiring higher-level intervention.

Reviewing forest lands issues related to roads and other infrastructure projects, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officers to expedite cases involving alternate land and transfer proposals and take up pending matters with the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

He also directed DFOs to

provide necessary guidance to the concerned departmental authorities for timely processing of cases on the PARIVESH Portal, particularly with regard to uploading of requisite information and to resolve minor issues at the local level through proper coordination.

The Divisional Commissioner said that the demarcation survey and installation of boundary pillars on forest lands is the top priority and the complete installation of all boundary pillars is to be completed by the end of this year.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized close coordination between the Revenue and Forest Departments, time-bound action and regular monitoring to ensure completion of the forest lands demarcation exercise within the two-months' period.

NC honours inspector Ajay Chib for Exemplary Courage and Gallantry

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 09

A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) today met Inspector Ajay Singh Chib and felicitated him on being honoured with the prestigious Shaurya Chakra for his exceptional bravery and gallantry in the line of duty.

The delegation, comprising Ankush Abrol Provincial joint secretary JKNC, Dr Vikas Sharma Coordinator and Secretary Central Zone JKNC, Randhir Singh Chib, Vikram Gupta and Rahul Gupta, presented Mata Chunari to Inspector Chib and conveyed their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on receiving the distinguished national honour.

The delegation appreciated Inspector Chib's exemplary courage, fearless leadership and unwavering commitment to duty during the anti-terror operation at Suffain, Rajbagh, District Kathua, where he led his



team despite heavy gunfire and played a pivotal role in the successful operation that resulted in the elimination of two terrorists.

The members of the delegation said that Inspector Chib's extraordinary valour and dedication represent the highest traditions of the J&K Police and serve as an inspiration for the younger generation and the entire

force. They said the Shaurya Chakra is a proud recognition not only of Inspector Chib's personal bravery but also of the courage, sacrifice and dedication of the men and women of the J&K Police who continue to serve the people with commitment and distinction.

The delegation expressed its pride in Inspector Chib's

achievement and prayed for his continued success, good health and safety in the service of the nation.

"Heartiest congratulations to Inspector Ajay Singh Chib on this well-deserved honour. His courage, leadership and devotion to duty are a matter of immense pride for Jammu and Kashmir and the entire nation."

Symposium on Road Safety held at SPPND GDC Samba

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 09

As part of its ongoing 02-weeks Enforcement-cum-Awareness Drive against traffic violations involving two-wheelers, Traffic Police Rural Jammu, in collaboration with Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College (SPPND GDC) Samba, today organized a symposium themed "Road Safety Begins with Responsibility, Not Enforcement" in the College conference Hall.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by SSP Traffic Rural Farooq Kaiser, the Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Nirlape Kour and other distinguished guests.

Convener Road Safety Club Prof. Mala Bhasin welcomed the guests, faculty members and students. She highlighted that the primary objective of the programme was to generate awareness about road safety, promote responsible road-user behavior and foster a strong sense of responsibility towards preventing road accidents and saving lives among students and



the community.

Interacting with the students, SSP Traffic Rural discussed the prevailing scenario of road accidents and major causes of road crashes. He emphasized the importance of observing traffic rules, responsible driving and developing a strong sense of civic responsibility among young people.

He gave a powerpoint presentation, elaborating the local accidents data which formed the basis for initiating the drive. According to him, 699 accidents have taken place between January to July 2026 in the four Districts of Rajouri, Poonch, Samba and Kathua in which 88 people died and 1001 were injured. However, a disturbing trend is

the fact that out of 699, 309 i.e 44% of the accidents are those in which two wheelers are involved. Further, out of 88 dead, 39 are those who were either driving or riding a two wheeler. Moreover 27% of the victims are below 25 years of age.

The symposium was judged by Prof. Smriti Manchanda, HoD English, Dr. Banpreet Kour, Convener IQAC and Dr. Anupama Sharma, HoD Hindi, who evaluated the performances of the participating students.

The Principal of the college stressed the need for greater youth engagement in promoting road safety awareness. She underscored that road safety is a shared responsibility and called upon students to fol-

low traffic rules diligently and encourage others to do the same. She further emphasized that responsible behavior on roads is essential for building a sustainable culture of safety.

Ritashi Gupta, Danish Bhagat and Madhur Chadgal secured the first, second and third positions, respectively. The winners were felicitated by SSP Traffic Rural Jammu with mementos, recognising their outstanding performances. Besides, mementos were also given to the Principal and Jury members in recognition of their gracious support in organizing the programme.

A pledge calling for observance of Traffic rules was also administered to the participants.

Mission YUVA accelerates youth enterprise push across J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 09

The Apex Committee of Mission YUVA (Youth Upliftment and Vibrant Advancement) met under Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, and reviewed the milestones achieved since the last Committee meeting held in May 2026, with particular focus on the four broad dimensions of the Mission including Culture, Capital, Capacity, and Connectivity through digital commerce and market access.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Director, IIM Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Education; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Managing Director, JKRLM; representatives from Universities, SKUAST, NABARD and other key stakeholders. Deputy Commissioners from all districts participated in the deliberations through video conferencing. Reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the Mission's performance across its various components and underscored the importance of sustaining the momentum generated on the ground.

He emphasised the need for close coordination among departments, financial institutions, training institutions and field-level functionaries to ensure that the expanding application base translates into viable and sustainable enterprises, meaningful employment opportunities and long-term economic empowerment of the youth.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the district-wise progress through the Deputy Commissioners and stressed the importance of continued field mobilisation, effective handholding of applicants, timely processing of cases and stronger convergence among the institutions associated with Mission YUVA.

He called for maintaining the focus on women and youth participation, strengthening the training and men-



torship ecosystem and leveraging digital platforms to expand market access for locally created products and services.

The Apex Committee also reviewed the institutional mechanisms put in place for field-level implementation and took stock of the emerging requirements for further strengthening the Mission's delivery architecture.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the progress achieved since the May review and called for continued efforts to convert the Mission's growing outreach into sustainable enterprises, stronger entrepreneurial ecosystems and wider livelihood opportunities for the youth across Jammu and Kashmir.

The latest progress, Secretary, Skill Development Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, highlighted the substantial expansion of the Mission's footprint since the previous review, noting that the programme has continued to gain traction at both the institutional and grassroots levels.

He apprised the meeting that under the mission youth mobilisation continued gaining momentum with female participation rising sharply. He revealed that under the Cultural Mobilisation and Public Awareness component, the average daily application intake has increased by 39 per cent over the last three months, rising from 280 to 390 applications per day.

A particularly significant feature has been the growing participation of women with female-led applications increasing by 76 per cent, from 91 to 160 applications per day, while 78 per cent of all female

applications are being driven by Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Sustained field-level awareness has consequently increased the overall female share of applications from 27 per cent to 31 per cent.

The Mission's mass youth mobilisation campaign (Yuva Jagriti 5.0) has so far reached 88,300 individuals, marking a 42 per cent increase since the last Apex review.

It was also divulged that the ongoing Business Hackathons, launched on August 15, 2026, have also emerged as a major platform for entrepreneurial mobilisation, reaching 18,000 students across more than 255 educational institutions. More than 1,300 innovative business ideas have already been generated, with the campaign continuing until September 16, 2026.

Additionally it was highlighted that the total application intake has increased by 37 per cent, rising from 1,04,067 on May 15 to 1,42,196 as on September 7, 2026. SBDU verifications have risen by 34 per cent to 80,965, while DLIC approvals have increased by 39 per cent to 75,791.

Moreover the loan sanctions have grown by 53 per cent, reaching ₹1,992 crore across 37,171 sanctioned accounts, while disbursements have reached ₹1,826 crore across 32,665 accounts, also registering 53 per cent growth.

The meeting was informed that commercial banks are presently processing around 2,800 applications every month, while the final sanction rate has recovered strongly from 23 per cent in July to 40 per cent in August, indicating improved process-

ing efficiency and conversion across the financial funnel.

The programme has simultaneously translated financial support into actual enterprise creation, with 13,597 new enterprises now fully operational across J&K, representing a 58 per cent surge since May. Another 6,777 enterprises are currently in the Work-In-Progress (WIP) stage, with WIP report submissions increasing by 70 per cent.

The Mission has also witnessed a substantial expansion in its Capacity Building and Business Mentorship component as the trained individuals has increased by 73 per cent since the last review, with 36,474 student/entrepreneur certifications completed so far. The mentorship framework has recorded an especially notable expansion, with enterprise mentorship completion increasing sevenfold (700 per cent) since the previous review. As many as 2,645 entrepreneurs have been mentored by 482 on-boarded mentors, strengthening the handholding ecosystem for emerging entrepreneurs beyond the initial stages of enterprise establishment.

The number of J&K merchant storefronts onboarded on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has grown by an extraordinary 329 per cent since May, reaching 9,266 digital stores.

Significantly, 2,067 dedicated Mission YUVA youth stores have now been fully onboarded on ONDC, providing young entrepreneurs, including those from rural and semi-urban areas, direct access to the national digital marketplace.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The Animal Husbandry Department Doda today organized an Awareness cum Medicine Distribution Camp at village Shiva under the Information, Extension and Communication (IEC) programme.

The camp focused on educating farmers about animal healthcare, disease prevention and control, vaccination, good livestock management practices, breed improvement, fodder development, livestock insurance and various welfare schemes being implemented by the Government. As part of the outreach initiative, 1 kg of mineral mixture was provided to each participating farmer to promote better nutritional management and overall health of livestock.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Dr. Irfan Ali Wani briefed the farmers in detail about various departmental schemes, programmes and employment opportunities for rural youth in the livestock and poultry sectors. He highlighted the scope of animal husbandry as a source of



sustainable livelihood and encouraged farmers and unemployed youth to take advantage of the financial and technical assistance available under different government initiatives. The CAHO also interacted with the farmers, listened to their concerns and responded to their queries regarding departmental schemes and animal husbandry related activities.

During the technical session, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, LDC Ghat Dr. Naveed Anjum sensitized the participants about Rabies, its public health significance, prevention of dog bites and the importance of

immediate medical attention following suspected exposure. He also elaborated on the role of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in providing technical guidance and facilitating farmers in accessing departmental services and schemes. He further educated the farmers about Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), emphasizing the judicious and rational use of antibiotics, avoidance of self medication and the importance of using antimicrobials only on veterinary advice.

Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, FAC Chiralla Dr. Shabir Hussain Mir conducted a dedicated aware-

ness session on Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). He explained the important clinical signs, modes of transmission and preventive measures associated with these economically important diseases. Farmers were sensitized about the importance of timely vaccination, biosecurity, vector control, maintaining hygiene, restricting unnecessary movement of animals and promptly reporting suspected cases to the nearest veterinary centre. Special emphasis was laid on early detection and timely veterinary intervention to minimize economic losses